

**What is claimed is:**

1. An electrical connector arrangement, comprising:  
a first connector arranged in a housing; and  
5 an actuation lever arranged on the first connector,  
configured to engage a mating connector, and movable between a  
free position in which the first connector and the mating  
connector are unmated and a coupled position in which the two  
connectors are fully mated;

10 a portion of the actuation lever being disposed between  
the first connector and the housing, and having thereon a  
clamping projection which, in the coupled position, is in  
engagement with a mating clamping projection on the housing.

2. The connector arrangement according to Claim 1,  
15 wherein the actuation lever is pivotal relative to the first  
connector.

3. The connector arrangement according to Claim 1,  
wherein the clamping projection protrudes towards the housing.

4. The connector arrangement according to Claim 3,  
20 wherein the mating clamping projection is formed on the  
housing and protrudes toward the lever.

5. The connector arrangement according to Claim 1,  
wherein the clamping projection on the lever is resilient in  
the direction of the housing and is deflected toward the  
25 housing by movement of the actuation lever from the free

position into the coupled position.

6. The connector arrangement according to Claim 5, wherein the resilient clamping projection is formed by a resilient portion of the actuation lever.

5 7. The connector arrangement according to Claim 5, wherein the clamping projection on the lever is formed on a resilient portion of the actuation lever.

8. The connector arrangement according to Claim 7, wherein the resilient portion of the actuation lever is formed  
10 by a spring tab cut to protrude out of the lever.

9. The connector arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the spring tab includes a clamping projection pointing towards the housing.

10. The connector arrangement according to Claim 5,  
15 wherein the first connector includes a ramp projection that urges the resilient lever region toward the mating clamping projection during the movement of the actuation lever from the free position into the coupled position, such that the clamping projection engages the mating clamping projection.

20 11. The connector arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the first connector is a socket connector.

12. The connector arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the first connector is a plug connector.

13. The connector arrangement according to Claim 1,  
25 wherein the actuation lever has on each side of the first

connector a respective lever part having a respective clamping projection, and the housing has at corresponding locations on two mutually opposing inner wall regions a respective mating clamping projection.

5        14. The connector arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the first connector has a mating clamping projection on each of two diametrically opposing sides thereof, the actuation lever is constructed as a two-armed lever having a respective lever arm on each of the two diametrically opposing  
10 sides of the first connector, and the lever arms each having a clamping projection positioned to engage the respective mating clamping projection.

15        15. The connector arrangement according to Claim 14, wherein the clamping projections of each lever arm comprise a deflectable spring tab cut to protrude from the lever arm with  
15 a clamping projection on the spring tab.

20        16. The connector arrangement according to Claim 15, wherein the actuation lever is constructed to be approximately U-shaped and has two limbs of this U-shape which each form one of the two lever arms, each of the limbs connected to a handle  
20 portion and terminating in a free end.

25        17. The connector arrangement according to Claim 16, wherein each of the two limbs of the U-shaped actuation lever has an opening at the free end for receiving a pivot peg  
25 arranged on the first connector.

18. The connector arrangement according to Claim 16,  
wherein each of the two limbs of the U-shaped actuation lever  
has at least one tooth at its free end constructed to mesh  
with at least one correspondingly positioned mating tooth on  
5 the mating connector to bring about a relative movement  
between the first connector and the mating connector.

19. An actuation lever constructed to be mounted on a  
connector arranged in a housing, the actuation lever being  
movable between a free position and a coupled position to move  
10 the connector into and out of an electrical connection with a  
mating connector,

the actuation lever having a clamping projection  
disposed to be positioned between the connector and the  
housing and configured to engage a mating clamping projection  
15 on the housing opposite the clamping projection when the  
actuation lever is in the coupled position.

20. The actuation lever according to Claim 19, wherein  
the clamping projection on the lever is formed by a portion  
of the lever region which protrudes towards the surrounding  
20 housing when the actuation lever is arranged on the connector.

21. The actuation lever according to Claim 20, wherein  
the clamping projection on the lever is formed on a lever  
portion which is resilient in the direction of the housing  
when the actuation lever is arranged on the connector.

25 22. The actuation lever according to Claim 21, wherein

the resilient lever portion is formed by a spring tab cut to protrude out of the lever.

23. The actuation lever according to Claim 22, further comprising a clamping projection extending toward the housing provided on the spring tab.